## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image processing system includes an image encoder system and a image decoder system that are coupled together. The image encoder system includes a block decomposer and a block encoder that are coupled together.

5   The block encoder includes a color quantizer and a bitmap construction module. The block decomposer breaks an original image into blocks. Each block is then processed by the block encoder. Specifically, the color quantizer selects some number of base points, or codewords, that serve as reference pixel values, such as colors, from which quantized pixel values are

10   derived. The bitmap construction module then maps each pixel colors to one of the derived quantized colors. The codewords and bitmap are output as encoded image blocks. The decoder system includes a block decoder. The block decoder includes a block type detector, one or more decoder units, and an output selector. Using the codewords of the encoded data

15   blocks, the comparator and the decoder units determine the quantized colors for the encoded image block and map each pixel to one of the quantized colors. The output selector outputs the appropriate color, which is ordered in an image composer with the other decoded blocks to output an image representative of the original image. A method for encoding an

20   original image and for decoding the encoded image to generate a representation of the original image is also disclosed.